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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JAMES M. JEFFORDS, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we return from Thanksgiving recess with gratitude surging in our hearts for all that You have done for us and given to us. We praise You for Your goodness, faithfulness, and unchanging love. During these past weeks since September 11, You have been our strength, courage, and endurance. You have given us exactly what we needed in each hour. Now in that same companionship with You, we face the challenges ahead. Grateful for the progress in the war against terrorism, we praise You in advance for victory in the battles still before us in Afghanistan. Remembering how You have protected the Senate family through the anthrax threat, we ask for continued patience and perseverance for the Senators and staffs displaced from their offices. Thank You for the interception of the anthrax-laden letter addressed to Senator LEAHY and continue Your protective care in the offices of Senator KENNEDY and Senator DODD.

Author of unity and source of oneness, may the spirit of patriotism equal to our Armed Forces in harm's way sway this Senate in the days ahead. Thank You for enabling dignity, creativity, and compromise that will get the work done expeditiously with ex-

cellence. We say with the psalmist: *O Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever. Amen.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JAMES M. JEFFORDS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 27, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES M. JEFFORDS, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. JEFFORDS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will conduct a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party conferences.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate go back into morning business beginning at 2:15 p.m.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. At least one rollcall vote will occur during today's session between 4 and 5 p.m.

It is my intention to take up the railroad retirement bill today. We will make a motion to proceed to the bill shortly. After we dispose of the railroad retirement bill, my hope is that we can take up the farm bill. We are going to be taking both of these bills up, waiting for the Defense appropriations bill to be sent here from the House. We are not sure yet when that will be. My hope is it will be sometime before the end of this week.

Appropriations Committee chairman Senator BYRD has made it clear it is his intention to take up the bill in committee as quickly as possible, and then we will be prepared to take up the Defense appropriations bill as soon as or shortly after the Appropriations Committee has acted.

NOTICE

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Michael F. DiMario, Public Printer

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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